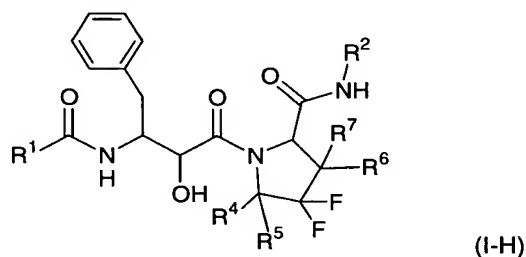


We claim:

1. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I-H), or a prodrug, pharmaceutically active metabolite, or pharmaceutically active salt or solvate thereof,



wherein:

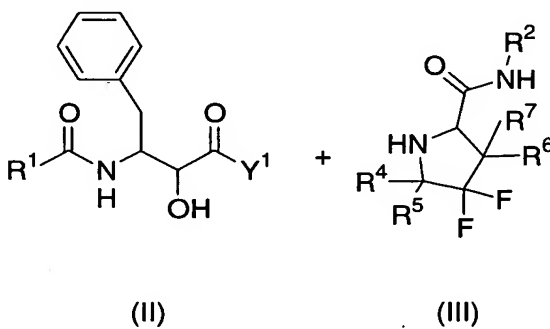
R<sup>1</sup> is a 5- or 6-membered mono-cyclic carbocyclic or heterocyclic group, wherein said carbocyclic or heterocyclic group is saturated, partially unsaturated or fully unsaturated and is optionally substituted by at least one substituent chosen from C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, hydroxyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylcarbonyloxy, C<sub>6-10</sub> arylcarbonyloxy, and heteroarylcarbonyloxy;

R<sup>2</sup> is C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl substituted with at least one halogen; and

R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> are independently chosen from H and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl;

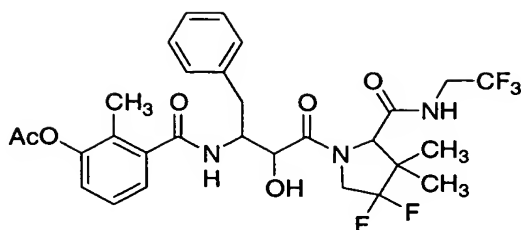
comprising:

reacting a compound of formula (II), wherein Y<sup>1</sup> is hydroxyl or a leaving group, with a compound of formula (III), or a salt or solvate thereof,



2. A process according to claim 1, wherein Y<sup>1</sup> is hydroxyl.

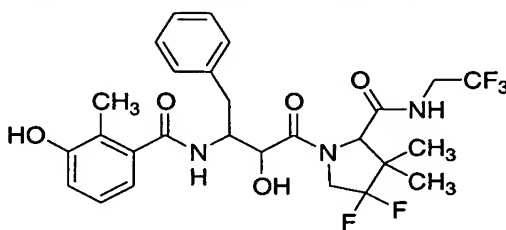
3. A process according to claim 1, wherein  $R^1$  is phenyl optionally substituted by at least one substituent chosen from  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl, hydroxyl,  $C_{1-6}$  alkylcarbonyloxy,  $C_{6-10}$  arylcarbonyloxy, and heteroarylcarbonyloxy.
- 5 4. A process according to claim 3, wherein in the compound of formula (I-H):  
 $R^2$  is  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl substituted with at least one halogen;  
 $R^4$  and  $R^5$  are H; and  
 $R^6$  and  $R^7$  are independently chosen from H and  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl.
- 10 5. A process according to claim 4, wherein in the compound of formula (I-H)  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  are  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl.
6. A process according to claim 5, wherein in the compound of formula (I-H)  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  are methyl.
- 15 7. A process according to claim 6, wherein in the compound of formula (I-H)  $R^2$  is  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl substituted with at least one fluorine.
8. A process according to claim 7, wherein in the compound of formula (I-H)  $R^1$  is phenyl substituted by at least one substituent chosen from  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl, hydroxyl, and  $C_{1-6}$  alkylcarbonyloxy.
- 20 9. A process according to claim 8, wherein in the compound of formula (I-H)  $R^1$  is phenyl substituted by at least one substituent chosen from methyl, hydroxyl, and methylcarbonyloxy.
- 25 10. A process according to claim 9, wherein in the compound of formula (I-H)  $R^2$  is  $-CH_2CF_3$ .
11. A process according to claim 10, wherein in the compound of formula (I-H)  $R^1$  is phenyl substituted by methyl and methylcarbonyloxy.
- 30 12. A process according to claim 11, wherein the compound of formula (I-H) is:



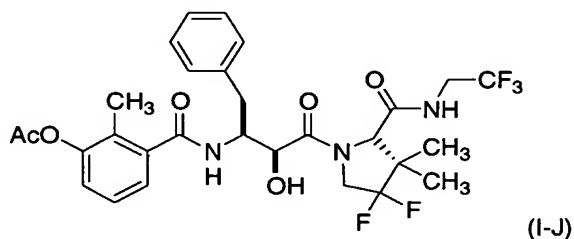
13. A process according to claim 10, wherein in the compound of formula (I-H)  $R^1$  is phenyl substituted by methyl and hydroxyl.

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14. A process according to claim 13, wherein the compound of formula (I-H) is:



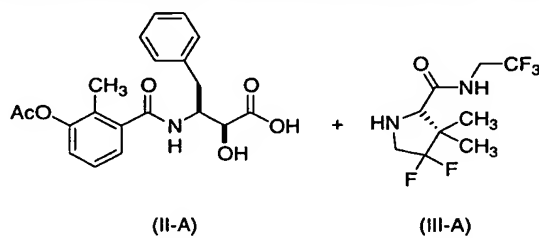
15. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I-J),



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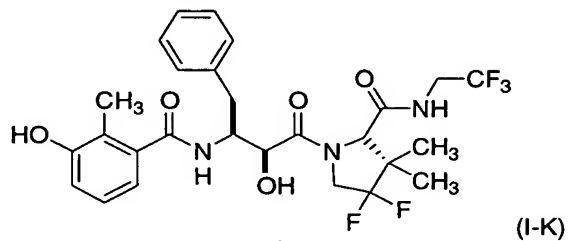
comprising:

reacting a compound of formula (II-A) with a compound of formula (III-A).



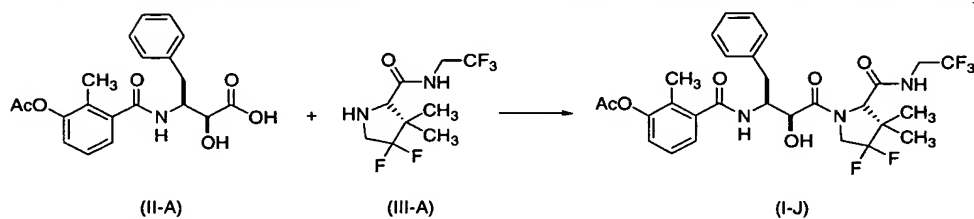
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16. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I-K),



comprising:

- (i) reacting a compound of formula (II-A) with a compound of formula (III-A),



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to afford a compound of formula (I-J); and

- (ii) deprotecting the compound of formula (I-J).